Scrapping of anti-dumping provisions under WTO

1857. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be please to state:

(a) whether Government plan to demand scrapping of anti-dumping provisions under WTO especially for the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how would Government ensure that in the guise of anti-dumping many developed countries may stop import of goods and services from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No Sir, the Government does not plan to demand scrapping of anti-dumping provisions under WTO as the mechanism of anti-dumping duties is used by developed as well as developing countries including India to safeguard the interests of its domestic industry from dumped imports.

India has, however, demanded special and differential treatment for exports of developing countries in terms of more liberal threshold limits for imposition of duties, stricter criteria for initiation of cases by developed countries against exports from developing countries, operationalisation of Article 15 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement which provides for the possibility of constructive remedies before applying anti-dumping duties against exports from developing countries and certain other changes in the Agreement to ensure greater fairness and avoidance of anti-dumping provisions as a protectionist measure.

Second round of negotiations of WTO

1858. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the sminister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the thrust of India during second round of negotiations comprising agriculture etc. under WTO;

(b) what plea the developed countries can take to block import of food and food products from India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the preparatory process to the Seattle Ministerial Conference, India had highlighted the problems of large agrarian economies, particularly the need to provide them with necessary flexibility so as to enable

them to take care of their food security, rural employment, rural development and poverty eradication concerns. However, no decision could be taken on these proposals as the Ministers of the member countries could not reach a consensus on a common declaration at Seattle. While the mandated negotiations in agriculture have now been formally launched in Geneva, no substantive decisions have yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Some of the developed countries could probably try to block import of food and food products from india by imposition of highly stringent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and other non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

Export of spices

1859. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of spices exported from Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export data is not maintained on State wise basis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spices House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Export from Meghalaya

1860. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of handloom handicrafts items, natural rubber, tea, leather exported form the Meghalaya during each of the last five year, and till date, country-wise;